



William A. Mitchiner

1911 - 2006

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Dec 27 1911 - Sep 21 2006
AAFA #0010

WILLIAM ARTHUR MITCHINER

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NEWS & OBSERVER

Raleigh, Wake Co., NC

Sunday, 24 September 2006 RALEIGH

William Arthur Mitchiner, 94, formerly of Oxford [Granville Co.], died Thursday, September 21, 2006. William was born at Mitchiners Crossroads, Franklin County in 1911. He graduated from North Carolina State University in 1934 and was a Veteran of World War II. He owned and operated an auto supply and home appliance business in Oxford for 40 years, retiring to Raleigh in 1978.

William was an amateur genealogist and published */Mitchener and Mitchiner Families/*, a 375 page story of the family from 1600's to the 1900's. He was married to the former Lena Honeycutt. Together they made about two dozen trips to Baptist mission operations around the world. They shared their experiences through various media with churches in North Carolina and other states for 25 years. William was a member of the Oxford Baptist Church and Forest Hills Baptist Church, serving as deacon for both and

was preceded in death by his beloved Lena. He is survived by nieces: Patsy M. Harris and Joyce M. Bussey; and nephews, John Mitchiner, William C. Mitchiner, Christopher Underhill and Donald Underhill. A Memorial Service will be held on Wednesday, September 27th at 11:00 a.m. at Forest Hills Baptist Church in the Bunn Olive Chapel.... In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made the William Arthur Mitchiner Fund, NC Baptist Foundation, 201 Convention Drive, Cary, NC 27511. AAFA NOTES: SSDI records show that William A. Mitchiner (SS #241-10-1442 issued in NC) was born 27 Dec 1911. Bill served as AAFA's genealogist from 1989 to 1991. When our first genealogist, Nancy Dietrich, AAFA #0028, resigned from the position, we began seeking someone to her replacement. Then-President Lodwick Alford approached Franceine Rees, AAFA #0051, who suggested that fellow

North Carolinian Bill Mitchiner would be a better choice. Here are excerpts from her letter to Wick: Mr. Mitchiner is far more qualified than I am for several reasons: — He has already contributed valuable original data to the collection, extractions pf Alfords from the tax records. — He has a well-documented line or lines to Alfords of the 18th century. — He has ready access to the best repository of North Carolina Alford material, the state archives. He lives in Raleigh and goes to the Archives two days each week. — He is one of the best liked and most respected researchers who do professional work in Raleigh. He has decades of experience in genealogy. My first encounter with Mr. Bill Mitchiner occurred about four or five years ago, when he and I were at opposite ends of a table in the State Library's genealogy room and discovered that we had two families in common—Alford and Wilder.

He told me then of his standing offer to help all cousins, however distant. Some time later, he actually did help with one of my Wilder problems. Typically, he would take no fee for searching the records for me. Around that time I suggested that the Raleigh newspaper interview him for a feature article, which they did, and the reporter got some wonderful statements about him from the various professional

and lay genealogists in and around the Archives. The article was run as a half-page feature. In short, Mr. Mitchiner is one of the finest gentlemen ever produced on an Alford tree, and I can think of no better candidate for the association's genealogist slot. See a copy of one of Bill's letters to Lodwick Alford on AAFA's website: Databases—>Letters. William's earliest Alford ancestor is Elizabeth, 1780 NC, daughter of

first cousins Isaac Alford and Mary Alford (both grandchildren of James 1687 VA). Elizabeth married Wiley Clifton on 10 Nov 1802 in Bute Co., NC. William's Alford lineage: Elizabeth 1780 NC⁵, Isaac 1754 NC⁶, Julius 1717 VA⁷, James 1687 VA⁸, John 1645 VA⁹. Isaac's wife Mary's lineage: Mary 1760 NC⁶, Lodwick 1710⁷, James 1687 VA⁸, John 1645 VA⁹

3404 Morningside Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
March 21, 1986

Mr. Lodwick H. Alford
P.O. Box 742
Sea Island, GA 31561

Dear Mr. Alford:

Your query in the March issue of the Wake County Genealogical Society Bulletin attracted my attention.

I am descended from both Lodowick and Julius Alford through Julius Alford's son Issac who married Mary Alford, daughter of Lodowick Alford. Their daughter Elizabeth Alford married my great great grandfather Willie Clifton.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any answers to your questions about the Alfords. The Norris family is an old Johnston County one. My great great grandfather Samuel Mitchner settled in that county and married a Frances Norris in 1799, but she did not live long and he married my ancestress Patsy Lockhart in 1802.

The thing that intrigued me was your statement that Lodowick Alford Sr. of New Kent County was not the Lodowick Alford who died in Franklin County, NC about 1801. I had always assumed that they were one and the same man. I have a copy of the St. Peters Parish, New Kent Co. Va. Vestry Book and have assumed that Julius and Lodowick Alford were brothers and sons of one James Alford.

There are so many land grants to Lodowick Alford that, as I look at my own records, I can easily see that there could have been several Lodowick Alfords. I have just assumed that Lodowick of Wake County was a son of Lodowick of Franklin County and have never made any effort to separate the the different LODOWICK ALFORDS.

One of the reasons that I did not do very much years ago when I was younger was that I just couldn't determine just whom my ELIZABETH ALFORD, wife of WILLIE (Wiley) CLIFTON was. After thirty years of off and on research I finally pinned down the proof of her ancestry through an estate settlement of her uncle Bailey Alford and the offspring of that slave which Lodowick Alford of Franklin County left his daughter Mary Alford, Elizabeth Alford Clifton's mother.

Lodowick Alford came to this area from Virginia soon after he disappears from the New Kent records. Halifax and Edgecombe Counties were parent counties of Granville before 1746 and Lodowick is mentioned. Then he is in Granville the parent of Bute until 1764 and Franklin after 1779.

I suppose you have the information on Alfords which is in the Wake County Heritage Book. Julius M. Alford who sent in one article may have been your son, since he denotes his father as Lodowick Alford.

See Gil Alford comments after Mr. Mitchner's signature.

Mr. Lodwick H. Alford

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March 21, 1986

I had assumed that Lodwick Alford of Franklin County, being so old by the 1790s, became senile and needed a guardian. This was the case with people in earlier days, there being no institutions to take care of people who needed care. I can recall a relative whom the census taker called an idiot in 1850, 60, 70, 80, 1900 and 1910. He was my grandfather's first cousin, could read and write, but was a little "slow", and needed some guidance.

I don't recall ever having checked the Rev. War Pay Vouchers at the Archives for Rev. War service of any Alford's, but they are not listed in Roster of "Soldiers From NC in the Revolution" which I have here at home.

A man named Judge Thomas M. Pittman took many of the Bute County loose papers home with him and they found their way back to the Archives. I have checked them many times for other names, but I have in my notes the following: "1778 - Goodridge, John, Isum and Isaac Alford took the oath of allegiance to the United States". This may mean that the family was sympathetic to the crown, but were forced to make a decision. I have seen this in the court records before.

Do you have some kind of documentary proof that Lodowick Alford of Franklin County was the son of Lodowick Alford of New Kent? I would like to have the reference if you have it or the line of thought which led to this conclusion. I am enclosing a stamped and self-addressed envelope and would appreciate your letting me know how you came to this conclusion.

Some of the branches of the Alford family were very poor when I was a child growing up in Franklin county and were share croppers. These were the ones who had stayed in the Crooked Creek area. But they had probably fallen upon lean times. Descendants are now some of the nicest and best citizens of the county now. It was when I became interested in family research in the middle 1940s that I learned that the Alford's were some of the "First Families" among the earliest settlers. This may account for their evident Loyalist tendencies during the Revolution.

At the present time I am busy with the writing and compilation of a Mitchiner genealogy for publication. However, if I can look up something in the Archives for you, please call on me. I would be happy to take small bits of time to do so when I am in the Archives.

Sincerely,

William A. Mitchiner
William A. Mitchiner

AAFA Notes by Gil Alford: I believe that Wick Alford may have a different view on this matter of Lodwick's death in Franklin Co., NC, as I write this in 2007. Wick based his ideas at that time (1986) on the fact that a DAR publication had shown old Lodwick Alford died 1789 in Washington Co., GA. I suspect DAR got that from some inadequately documented input from a member. There is a similar situation regarding the reported wife Rebecca Ferrell which is in some DAR lineages. AAFA has never been able to find any shred of evidence of such a death or marriage.

We do have records indicating a Federal Judge in Georgia sent U.S. Marshals out in search of Lodwick Alford and his son Julius. (They were apparently way in arrears on a loan.) The marshals were unable to find Lodwick but they did find Julius.

We do have proof that the Julius Alford and Lodwick Alford who moved from New Kent Co., VA to NC were brothers, and sons of James Alford.

Wick and I still differ on the relationship between the Lodwick Alford of Franklin Co. and the Lodwick Alford of Wake Co. Without any documentation I believe they were father and son. After decades of research Wick believes otherwise.

The Julius M. Alford who sent the article to the Wake County Heritage Book was our own Julius M. "Pooley" Alford. He and Wick joined me in founding the Alford association in 1987.

"Pooley" was the first AAFA treasurer and regrettably he died in 1995.

– Gil Alford, October 2007.



WILLIAM A. MITCHNER
3404 MORNINGSIDE DRIVE
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27607

788-0588

CERTIFIED GENEALOGICAL RECORD SEARCHER

April 5, 1986

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford, Jr.
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 63031

Dear Mr. Alford:

Enclosed is my check for \$12.00 for your publication About Alford's.

Also, I would like to purchase any back issues which you might have available. Please let me know what you have and the price.

Mr. Lodwick H. Alford of Sea Island, GA wrote me about you after I had answered a query he had in a local genealogical paper. I knew that ~~there~~ was an Alford Association some years ago in the DC-MD area ~~some years ago~~ and we had the publications in our genealogical library here. I am happy to learn of your interest and that you are doing so much to keep the Alford family lines researched.

Lodwick Alford said that he was going to send my first letter to him along to you, but I want to get a record of what you are doing and was happy that he shared with me his copy of Number 3.

I xeroxed some items from my Alford file which I have collected over the years and sent them to him. I would be glad to share any data I have ~~which~~ may be of interest to you. I can see by the number 3 issue that you have done a tremendous amount of work. However, as I told Lodwick, I have found documentary proof that Mary Alford, daughter of Lodowick Alford of Franklin County was married to Issac Alford who almost certainly was a son of Julius Alford. So Mary's son Bailey was legitimate as was my great great grandmother Elizabeth Alford who married Willie Clifton in 1802.

My letterhead is not to show that I am a professional when it comes to relatives. I share all my family research with others and it matters not to me how distant they are. When I moved to Raleigh about ten years ago after selling my business and retiring, having done many years of genealogical research, I decided that I needed to keep busy. I took some advance courses in research and applied for national certification. The tests they gave were not too hard to pass, so I began to do some research for others. This worked out fine for awhile until I decided that no one was going to publish my own family genealogy unless I did. It has been hard to do both, but I am about to get mine ready for publishing.

Let me know if I might be of help in getting your (and my) Alford's.

Sincerely,

Bill Mitchner

William A. Mitchner

3404 Morningside Drive
Raleigh, NC 27607
August 20, 1986

Mr. Gilbert K. Alford
1403 Kingsford Drive
Florissant, MO 6301-2422

Dear Gil:

Thank you for your letter of July 19. You did not need to write concerning the material I sent you. I am just glad to have found you and a place to put any new material on the family which comes to light.

You surely have my permission to use anything I have sent you or may send you in the future in any way you wish. It is not necessary for you to credit me with the items I sent or may send. I wish that I had time to dig further into some of the original records.

The other day I was going through the original papers of the War of the Regulation for a client and found the enclosed paper which I had the Archives people copy.

In case you may not be familiar with North Carolina early history, there were some unscrupulous officials like county clerks and others who preyed upon the settlers. They had an uprising which eventually came to a head in the Battle of Alamance in which the Governor (Tryon) led the "King's Troops" in a pitched battle in which about a thousand people on both sides participated. I am writing from memory and so could be off in facts, but I think the above skirmish took place about a year after this paper.

The "battle" lasted about an hour and the settlers had to surrender. Many of them had to leave the area, but some were caught and about half a dozen were hanged at Hillsboro which had been the seat of government ~~at~~ one time.

Though the men in the enclosed paper met at Col. Bryan's, they were almost entirely leaders from Bute County which was cut off from old Granville County in 1764 and divided into Franklin and Warren in 1779.

Though I realize that Lodwick Alford, the first, could have been the same as the one through which Alford's in Georgia became DARs, ~~but~~ I am not convinced of this. These officers in the militia were not young men. The first Lodwick Alford would have been in his fifties in 1770, a prominent land owner, and no reason to move to Georgia with his son. With few exceptions, these people left NC for a better life and old Lodwick was one who had it where he was. I would be the first to admit that I have no proof of what I am saying, so would easily accept correction from someone who has proof that Lodwick, brother of Julius Alford, went to GA.

You are doing a ~~great~~ ^{TREMENDOUS} work and future generations will be grateful to you as well as we who are benefitting in this generation.

Please don't bother to reply. Just let me know if I may be of help and know that whatever I send is yours to use as you wish.

Sincerely,

Bill
William A. Mitchiner